



The City



7 0 2

Chapter 1 by Mel

The sun beat down on my back as I pull up the last of the carrots. The harvest season is just ending and as usual, my papa and I barely have enough to last through the winter. We are one of the poorest families in the poorest town of all the outside villages. The people inside the city always have enough of everything for them to last, never worrying about “what if”.

Long ago, about 500 years, the sun sent out deadly solar flares, making the human race endangered. Very few people survived, but those who did created a whole new process for the species to stay alive. So, those who were wealthy and healthy lived inside the City, a high-tech metropolis, sort of like the old New York, with its skyscrapers and traffic. But, the people who didn't have a very high social standing (my ancestors were very low-class) created their own towns, which are the villages that I live in. The City and the villages used to trade a lot, but as soon as King Lyran took control, he created a wall separating the two, leaving us to fend for ourselves.

As I walk inside, I take a long, hopeful glance at the wall, hoping that one day it will reopen and Papa can live out the rest of his days happy. Everything that I do is to keep him happy. My mother died a few years back from pneumonia, and all I have left is Papa, so I try to take good care of him. Of course, winter is coming and it's supposed to be a harsh one. Our livestock are

likely to die, and if that happens we will be ruined. I worry about this more and more everyday as the cool autumn breeze turns

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milk and fleece. One animal shouldn't be that hard to take care of, and we really need the materials.

As I head off on my expedition, I am sure to ration my supplies carefully, in case I get stuck out for a few extra days. I left my Papa a note, but I made sure not to worry him, or he would go after me himself and he would definitely not survive.

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